

CLAIMS

The following listing of amended paragraphs will replace all prior versions, and listings, of corresponding paragraphs in the application. Currently amended paragraphs are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~. No new matter is added by this amendment.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an extended manufacturing environment, comprising:
 - receiving, at a manufacturer's server, a change request associated with at least one product communication from a customer of the manufacturer;
running a simulation, in response to a request from the customer via a remote client, to determine at least one impact of making the change request;
automatically transmitting, in response to the change request communication, an order for a first portion of a plurality of supplies to a first supplier and an order for a second portion of the plurality of supplies to a second supplier, the plurality of supplies being needed by the manufacturer to manufacture the at least one product for the customer;
 - receiving an indicator that the order for the second portion of the plurality of supplies has been rejected by the second supplier;
 - providing the customer in real-time with detailed information about the at least one product as it is being manufactured by the manufacturer; and
 - restricting interactions between the customer and other customers, the first supplier, and the second supplier.
2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2-1 wherein the at least one impact includes further comprising running a simulation to determine whether the order for the at least one product can be filled by the manufacturer.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step comprises receiving the communication which comprises a request to change an existing order for the at least one product, the transmitting includes transmitting in response to the change request and without approval from the manufacturer.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1-5 wherein the at least one impact includes running step comprises running the simulation to determine at least one of a loss of a ship date, a surcharge for re-assembling the at least one product, and an unexpected increase in price due to a change in sub-components of the at least one product.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step comprises receiving the change request communication which comprises a request for the plurality of supplies.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving, at the manufacturer's server, a request for detailed product quality information from the customer.

9. (Currently Amended) A system embodied in a computer-readable medium and for providing an extended manufacturing environment, the system comprising:

a manufacturing interface module configured to receive a communication from a customer of a manufacturer, automatically process the communication, and automatically pass control to an ordering module;

a simulation module at the manufacturer configured to be triggered by the customer from a customer site separate from the manufacturer to run a simulation such that the customer can determine at least one impact of the communication at the manufacturer;

the ordering module configured to automatically transmit an order for a plurality of supplies to a supplier of the plurality of supplies, the plurality of supplies being needed by the manufacturer to manufacture at least one product for the customer; and

a communications interface module configured to provide the customer in real-time with detailed information about the product as it is being manufactured by the manufacturer and configured to control interactions between the customer and other customers, the supplier, and other suppliers,

the manufacturing interface module configured to receive an indicator that the order for the plurality of supplies has been rejected by the supplier.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the communication comprises an order for the at least one product.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein further comprising a the simulation module is configured to run the a-simulation to determine whether the order for the at least one product can be filled by the manufacturer.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the communication comprises a request to change an existing order for the at least one product.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12-13 wherein the simulation module is capable of being triggered by the customer from the customer site to run running the simulation to determine at least one of a loss of ship date, a surcharge for re-assembling the at least one product, and an unexpected increase in price due to a change in sub-components of the at least one product.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the communication comprises a request for the plurality of supplies.

16. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the manufacturing interface module is further configured to receive from the customer a request for detailed product quality information.

17. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture having computer-readable program means embodied therein for providing an extended manufacturing environment, comprising:

computer-readable program means for receiving, at a manufacturer's server, a communication from a customer of the manufacturer;

computer-readable program means for a customer to run a simulation from a remote client to determine at least one impact at the manufacturer of the communication;

computer-readable program means for automatically processing the communication at the manufacturer's server;

computer-readable program means for automatically transmitting an order for supplies from the manufacturer's server to a supplier of the supplies, the supplies needed by the manufacturer to manufacture a first product for the customer and a second product different from the first product;

computer-readable program means for providing the customer in real-time with detailed information about the product as it is being manufactured by the manufacturer;

computer-readable program means for controlling interactions between the customer and other customers, the supplier, and other suppliers; and

computer-readable program means for receiving from the supplier a first indicator that a portion of the order associated with the first product has been rejected and a second indicator that a portion of the order associated with the second product has been accepted.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the detailed information includes quality information about the being-manufactured product.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the detailed information includes quantity information about the being-manufactured product.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the detailed information includes information associated with a location of the at least one product within a manufacturing floor, the location being associated with a workstation at the manufacturing floor, the information associated with the location being defined in response to a scanning.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the detailed information includes statistical process control information about the being-manufactured product.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the detailed information includes at least one of quality information or quantity information about the being-manufactured product.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the detailed information includes the location within the manufacturer of the being-manufactured product.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the detailed information includes statistical process control information about the being-manufactured product.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable program means of claim 17 wherein the detailed information includes at least one of quality information or quantity information about the being-manufactured product.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable program means of claim 17 wherein the detailed information includes the location within the manufacturer of the being-manufactured product.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable program means of claim 17 wherein the detailed information includes statistical process control information about the being-manufactured product.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the interactions comprise discussion threads,

the method further comprising:
sending an alert based on at least a portion of the discussion threads; and
monitoring for an acknowledgement of the alert.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the interactions comprise streaming video.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the interactions comprise at least one of discussion threads or streaming video.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable program of claim 17 wherein the interactions comprise at least one of discussion threads or streaming video.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the order for the second portion of the plurality of supplies is rejected based on at least one product.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically uploading a list of approved suppliers defined by the customer, the first supplier and the second supplier being selected from the list of approved suppliers.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the providing includes providing via a channelized view uniquely customized for the customer and selected from a set of channelized views, the restricting includes restricting via the channelized view.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the order for the plurality of supplies is transmitted to the supplier and the control is passed to the ordering module, both without approval by the manufacturer.

42. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving from the customer via the remote client an indicator of a rejection of the change request after the running of the simulation.

43. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the order for the first portion of the plurality of supplies is a first updated order, the order for the second portion of the plurality of supplies is a second updated order.

44. (New) The system of claim 9 wherein the communications interface module is configured to provide the detailed information to the customer at a remote client, the simulation is run via the remote client.

45. (New) The system of claim 9 wherein the communication is a change request associated with the at least one product, the simulation module is configured to receive from the customer an indicator of a rejection of the change request after the simulation is run.

46. (New) The computer-readable program of claim 17 wherein the communication is a change request associated with the at least one product.

47. (New) The computer-readable program of claim 17 wherein the communication is a change request associated with the at least one product, the computer-readable program means associated with the simulation is configured to receive from the customer an indicator of a rejection of the change request.